GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:941
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
DROUGHT CONDITION IN RAJASTHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Western Rajasthan reels under severe drought condition for an average eight years out of every 10 years;

(b) whether Western Rajasthan, especially Barmer and Jaisalmer are in the grip of severe drought for the last five years and there is acute shortage of potable water and fodder for animals;

(c) if so, whether the Government have carried out on the spot assessment of problems being faced by poor farmers and livestock there;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the scarcity of drinking water, fodder for livestock; and

(e) the long term measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the situation in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d): Parts of Rajasthan are facing drought situation during the last few years. During the current year, both meteorological sub divisions of the State viz. West Rajasthan and East Rajasthan received scanty rainfall during South-West Monsoon period (1.6.2002 to 30.9.2002) and the State Government has declared all the 32 Districts in the State as drought affected. The following assistance has so far been sanctioned:

(i) 7 lakh MT of wheat free of cost for relief works;

(ii) Approval of Rs 207.68 crores for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Relief Fund (NCCF) subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State;

(iii) Advance release of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund Rs. 85.58 crores;

(iv) Allotment of 30,000 MTs of Cattle Grade Feed;

(v) Sanction of 2.40 lakh mini kits;

(vi) Free Transport of water and fodder through rail;

(vii) Rs 11.66 crores for running 435 cattle camps through NGOs.

(e): Necessary steps in this regard has to be taken by the State Government.